

Appl. No. 10/060,694

Reply Dated Jan. 15, 2004

Reply to Office Action of Oct. 15, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of rendering a material hydrophilic, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a material comprised of hydrophobic or borderline hydrophilic components, wherein said material is at least a portion of an absorbent article;
 - (b) applying a high energy surface treatment to said material to form a treated material; and
 - (c) applying a plurality of nanoparticles to said treated material.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said material comprises a textile such as a nonwoven material comprised of hydrophobic or borderline hydrophilic structural components.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein at least some of the structural components of said material ~~nonwoven material~~ are at least partially comprised of a polyolefin.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein at least some of the structural components of said material ~~nonwoven material~~ are at least partially comprised of polyethylene.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein at least some of the structural components of said material ~~nonwoven material~~ are at least partially comprised of polypropylene.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the high energy surface treatment applied in step (b) comprises a treatment selected from the group consisting of: corona discharge treatment; plasma treatment; UV radiation; ion beam treatment; and electron beam treatment.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said at least some of said nanoparticles comprise one or ~~one or~~ more of the following: non-photoactive, photoactive, and passified photoactive.

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8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein after step (c), the surface of the treated ~~nonwoven~~ material becomes hydrophilic having an advancing contact angle with water of less than 90° after 30 seconds of spreading.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein said absorbent article is selected from the group consisting of diapers, incontinence products, and catamenial products.
13. (New) The method of Claim 1 wherein said portion of an absorbent article is selected from the group consisting of topsheets, acquisition layers, distribution layers, wicking layers, storage layers, absorbent cores, absorbent core wraps, containment structures, and combinations thereof.
14. (New) A method of rendering a material hydrophilic, said method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing a material comprised of hydrophobic or borderline hydrophilic components;
 - (b) applying a high energy surface treatment to said material to form a treated material;
 - and
 - (c) applying a plurality of nanoparticles to said treated material;wherein the liquid strike-through time of said treated material with said nanoparticles applied thereto is less than or equal to about 10 seconds after 3 gushes of test liquid according to the Strike Through Test.
15. (New) A method according to Claim 14 wherein the liquid strike-through time of said treated material with said nanoparticles applied thereto is less than or equal to about 6 seconds after 3 gushes of test liquid according to the Strike Through Test.
16. (New) A method according to Claim 15 wherein the liquid strike-through time of said treated material with said nanoparticles applied thereto is less than or equal to about 3 seconds after 3 gushes of test liquid according to the Strike Through Test.
17. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein said material comprises a textile such as a

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nonwoven material comprised of hydrophobic or borderline hydrophilic structural components.

18. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein at least some of the structural components of said material are at least partially comprised of a polyolefin.
19. (New) The method of Claim 18 wherein at least some of the structural components of said material are at least partially comprised of polyethylene.
20. (New) The method of Claim 18 wherein at least some of the structural components of said material are at least partially comprised of polypropylene.
21. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein the high energy surface treatment applied in step (b) comprises a treatment selected from the group consisting of: corona discharge treatment; plasma treatment; UV radiation; ion beam treatment; and electron beam treatment.
22. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein said at least some of said nanoparticles comprise on or more of the following: non-photoactive, photoactive, and passified photoactive.
23. (New) The method of Claim 14 wherein after step (c), the surface of the treated material becomes hydrophilic having an advancing contact angle with water of less than 90° after 30 seconds of spreading.